A short Survey of the Difficulties and Inconveniencies of a Married LIFE.

By *JOHN THOMSON's* Man.

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

IN the first place, I conceive there be none in the world will justify any man, that falleth into a ditch when he can escape; nor condemn me for vindicating him, that shunneth an apparent danger. But to be brief in proceeding to what I intend, I shall only presume to give you a small collection of old coined cramp words, composed in more than an ordinary old form approved of by the master of the mint of the good town of vanity where all such coiners reside without process of law. And for any irregularites, I make no other vindication, but what is contained in the old proverb, 'To roose the ford as you find it,' and apprehend no danger till you are over: And I admit of this my suit observation on the intended subject as follows, viz.

There be many suppose to themselves, if they had a wife they want nothing more; but behold when they have got the wife, they want all things but the wife, with the old tocher good, which is sometimes more wind than wealth, more drafles butter, which makes pride hang straight upon the back of poverty, as a taylor makes a flae, hang on the thread of justice.

But surely such blades as those have tongues a great deal wider than their heads, who manage their affairs so precipitantly without mature deliberation, and may really be reckoned inrolled and incorporat amongst the masters and managers of the cork manufactory, who take no warning by them that are almost ruined by a crost, fallen perverse inveterate, vindictive, indifferant, unlovely, undutiful, proud, petted, peevish, conceited, camitary, malicious, vain, dorty, unconstant, evil-natured wife, that pithes always on a nettle, and counts herself worth so meikle mice dirt, that there can be neither ho, nor had again with her, for want of midding preference.

For marriage is nothing but a lottery, far more dangerous than an E. ast-india voyage, which certainly proves to so many a ones sad experience because beauty, or money, are the only preferable things that most men look to.

As to the first then, I would have you consider, that beauty and honesty seldom agree; for straight persons have often crooked conditions, and fair faces foul vices, and often foolish to the boot.

And

And as to the ſecond, money is a root of ſo dangerous a conſequence, that it has cauſed many a man ſhake his foot and little mirth in his mind; and oft times obſerved to proove a greater plague than pleaſure one way or other.

Thirdly, beauty can be of no value without piety, virtue and honeſty. But ſo many men ſo many minds: it's thy fancy makes her fair and lovely, and when all is done, you are but in love with your own fancy, and an image of your own erecting; for beauty at the beſt is but ſkin deep. So conſider when thou admireſt a beautiful woman as an object of thy fancy, that it is but a bundle of clay duſt and aſhes thou admireſt which fadeth as a flower.

But fourthly, As I've mentioned before, I neither do nor ſhall condemn marriage in any ſort, providing it be with a pious, chaſte and virtuous honeſt woman, which is the inward beauty, far more eſteemable than the outward ſhow, but where there is one that arrives at that haven of happineſs, there are thouſands that do ſplit upon the precipitant rocks of misfortune other ways

But to eſcape thoſe rocks of precipitancy, and prevent all raſhneſs, dangers, and inconveniencies, that may occur on any of thoſe heads, make it your buſineſs to find out a woman with theſe properties viz. Piety, patrimony, parentage, prudence, policy, virtue, and if ſhe have any more, ſhe is never a whit the worſe.

For all the days of many ones married life are ſtuff'd with nothing elſe but fears cares, miſeries, torments, vexations, troubles and anxities: and all that envy malice, fury, the tongue and heart can invent, are concomitants of many ones married life: For they run on head-long in a courſe of folly and madneſs, never ſo much as dreaming of the neceſſity of having ſome viſible proſpect, how they ſhall lay the foundation of their future ſtate, either ſpiritual or temporal, ſuppoſing to themſelves, if they be married all is right, without ever meditating upon the deſign for which it was inſtituted, viz. Love, peace and concord, and a conjunct help to each other in caſes lawful for no by end will ſuit that deſign. And as to temporal ſtate, if there be no more requiſite in a married life, than four bare legs, aſk Mr. Moneyleſs and ſee.

And Fiftly, If a man be tryſted with a woman labouring under any of the defects mentioned in the following ſuppoſition, let Mr. Robert Reaſon judge if they be not beſt beguiled, that gets none of them

And Firſt, If thy wife happen to be humorous; or peevith conceited, when ſhe has not all to her mind, ſhe'll look ſo like the bum of a bag pipe, and be ſuch an ill

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web to bleeteh, that thou hadſt beeter be out of the world, there being nothing but diſcord and continual ſtriſe.

2. If ſhe be ſingle, and not ſo wiſe as ſhe ought, ſhe'll be ſo taken up with her old friend Little worth, and thou hadſt better married a ſtone, and picked a bare bone, for ſhe'll diſgrace thee at all times, and ruin thy affairs and make you look as if ye were all nipped with the nirles.

3. If ſhe be one conceitedly wiſe, it is as bad, if not worſe for ſhe'll keep ſuch cloſs correſpondency with old Peter Puff up, that ſhe'll ſlight thee and thy judgment, and rule all herſelf, tho' ſhe deſtroys all with Phaeton.

4. If ſhe be not neat and cleanly, thou will be ſure of dirty goupens and a nieve full beſtroak with her, and ſhe'll be ſo like her bruiked brother Robie Ram looking through the wand door, that thou will ſurely loath her, and certainly fall out of conceit with her.

5. If ſhe be too courteous and delicate, pride and pleaſure will be her chief devotion, and by that means ſhe may ruin thee, for pride and idleneſs take ſo much upholding, that ſhe'll ſpend all thy ſubſtance, (and as Lucian obſerves, all Arabia will not ſerve to perfume her hair,) and then you'll be ſo forced to taeke the long ten to your tail.

6. If ſhe be one of Live looſe bairntime, ſhe will have all her acquaintance about her at once, particularly Madam Conceit, and her ſiſter dame Curioſity, lady madam Vanity, and her attendance miſtreſs Carnality, with conſent of Helen Heedie and her accomplice Lillin Light-lady, old luckie Hate-good, and her daughter miſtreſs Impudence, and their ſweet coulin deacon pride, faſhion framer, Sole tutor and governour, who puffs them all up with ſuch a ſpirit of giddineſs, ſend them all a packing to church like wild geeſe in a tiſe, to ſtand like bogſtalkers, to divert themſelves and others from hearing the word, and bring them home again with their mouths full of ſuch debates as would make Carl cats weep vinegar with their een, and a great many more long tail'd arguments ſuch as would make dead men laugh, or a horſe brake his halter: For ſome will contend that miſtreſs Civility is not in faſhion, and others will be laughing modeſty to ſcorn and others debating ſtrongly about the ruffling of Ragtail's gown, and others clattering about their antiquity, and ſome about their nativity and genealogy, ſome puff'd up with pelf (they never wan their ſelf) upbraiding humility and expreſſing themſelves to be come of a blood, which being referred to Tell-truth, declares, 'That ſo is a pudding; for one ſays he, may know by your din ſkin that you

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have been baptiz'd with pudding broe.' The verity of which, I shall appeal to the ancient physician Doctor Death, who will at once silence such talk by want of breath.

7. If she be a beauty, gaudie and airie, she'll be more virtuous by chance than principal, and surely slight thee, and perhaps cuckold thee, and put thee in action's livery, to live and die a wretch, and be a daily companion to Rob the cripple.

8. If she be homely and ugly she'll paint, and that's odious, and if she do not, she'll look so like the grim gimmer that lambed in the shower, that the very sight of her will be an antidote against love.

9. If she be an old maid, it is one to a hundred but she dies of her first child, and if not, the children themselves often die. And then you'll be as far out of order, as a fiddle wanting strings.

10. If she be a lusty, viporous, young one, all cork over it's a hazard if she have breeding and discreation to manage thy affairs, or be wanton and lustful, &c. And if she be not pleased, you know where and when, thou hadst better been hanged, for she'll cuckold thee, and make thee weary of thy life, and set you the high-way to the back of November, to pick bird seed.

11. If she be an old rotten runt, a rich widow, thou mayst be in need that way, she'll gible gable like a goose and be so thrifty, that what she holds in at one door, she'll set twice as much out at another, and make away all to her children or friends, before she engage you, and still furnish them out of the estate too, so as the proverb says, 'He that marries a wife and five children, marries six thieves,' And besides, she'll still torment thee with numbers of stories, of the virtue and good qualifications of her first husband, tho' he never had any. And can their be any thing more tormenting and odious? But if it be thy choice to marry a widow let it always be such a one, whose husband was hanged or died a worse death, and then be sure she will not dad him in your teeth.

12. If she be a young widow, with a brisk shell and a rotten kernal; ten to one but she'll ask more of you, than you are able to give her, besides the loss of a burgess ticket, then you'll be pretty vizard mask to hide her foul tricks; for the name of a husband will be enough to cure all her sores, slips, and abominations, and to leave you to chew your cude.

13. If she be either a widow or a maid, and have no fortune,

fortune, and knoweth nothing but the want of virtue and other ſuitable endowments, ſhe'll bring ſorrow, trouble, and beggary with her; and if you be not capable to maintain her in all things, ye'll look rather like the laird of pity than a whithead wanting teeth.

14. If ſhe be rich and well born, then you will ſurely think you have found a loatch, or rather a flea in your hoſe; but remember, her friends may ruin thee by lying on thee, and ſhe'll be ſo lofty, that ſhe'll deſpiſe virtue and all good properties, and pray no oftner than ſhe pays her debt, and link up the chain of charity ſo, that it can reach no farther than herſelf, except to ſet off the poor with that old ſaying, 'Go home to your own parithes.' And ſo ſeemingly religious, as to trip to church twice a year for devotions ſake, to know who is in better faſhion than herſelf, ſo that you had better be dead out of the way, for ſhe muſt rant, revet, ſay and do what ſhe will, be it right or wrong; and in ſo doing, perhaps beggar thee at laſt.

15. If ſhe be one that has paſt the diſciſline of Sir John bottle, then you will undoubtedly be obliged to ſet a match to her tail, for if your bread were a bicker, it would go for the liquor: and ſo Sir John will come to be maſter of all, and leave you to put the other clout on your cloak, and leave upon Meg Mutchkins comfort, and then thereafter as bumbaz'd as a carlin counting ſarts.

16. If thou wed an old Maugie, Murtle, moupit, crouch-backed, wilk-mou'd whirl faced, nipped, deformed creature to be thy wife. It is ſurely more out of love to her gear than to herſelf: but as the proverb ſays, need gars naked men run, and ſorrow gars webſters ſpin. For it's her money makes her nimble as an eel, and clouts all her broken clampers. But conſider, you have choſen a crooked, heckle headed, midge-winged, mizzie kyted, lap-luged, ill-haired, bee-ſtang'd, flat-noſed, bow-legged, ſquint-eyed, chandler-chafted, ſhavel gabbed, leſt-handed, traik-taild, yellow-wam'd, button-arſed, bum-ſotted, beetle-bodied, whap-nebbed, tauny-cheeked, foul breek-ed, red-ſhanked, fidler-flanked, tut-mou'd, dottard, doit-ed, decript, diſjointed, diſtracted, diſtorted, whaſel-faced, weavel cooted, quarter-witted, paunch lipped, horn-hipped, ham-hough'd, hair-brain'd. Nonſenſical, fanta-ſtical, gooſe-capical, coxcomical, and idiotical, worlds wonder, burſen-body, not only to reſſels your eſtate and name, but to build your family.

A Pretty Man indeed.

And if theſe be help mects, let the world judge.

So I think it is better to a man to live alone, if he live a pious, chaſte, virtuous and honeſt life, than to be joined to one who will put him out of himſelf; for marriage as is ſaid before was deſigned for love, peace and concord, and to be meet helps to each other, but as the proverb ſays, maidens are ſo meek till they be married, that men never ſo much as dream of a toolzie, till the tocher come a paying.

But in the next place, all accompliſhments, as dancing ſinging, playing, &c. ſignify nothing without virtue; for what is there in an apiſh mimical geſture, a compliment alamode fixt to a fellow, with a wind-mill in his nodle, and a feather in his tail; That is ſo eloquent, that he'll rattle over all his tum bags at once, and talk only of fool faſhions, vain ſhows and ſniffling curioſities, infuſed in his head, as it were with a top ſwarm of bees breading in his brain, meer apprehenſions of folly and madneſs, and making his mind fancy one thing two, and his ears a bracelet, and ſome fragment of play on his finger-ends, can whiſtle, ſing and fiddle, &c. and dreſs himſelf in faſhion, and yet be ignorant of knowledge of all learning, or other ſciene of moral or divine.

Yet that's the fellow that's eſteemed a well accompliſhed, ſmart handſome pretty gentleman, with your idle, vain, proud, ſtinking, airy, fooliſh, fantaſtical, tapie, gaping, glouring lingel tailed giglets.

And would any, but ſuch a light, ſick-brain'd, cark-nodled, ſlae-lugged, piper-framed, fiddler fac'd, wag-tail'd fellow, fancy a kelk choſe, idle, lazie, louber lipped, ſower, naſty, foul, clacking, clouted, horn-headed, tatter-tail'd baggage; a meer outſide, painted up beacon, a ſtitch't together ſand brea; can ſcarce put on their own clothes, and can do nothing elſe, but ſtand like a ſtatute with their gogling eyes and black patches, and wear them when they are on, and when they are off, are aſhamed to be ſeen in publick for fear they prove a ſcare crow.

Let not womens apparel be any engagement of your love to them, for as the proverb is, men ſhapes, and ſciſcars clips: and many times beauty is more beholden to art, painting, waſhing, faſhion and ſcurding and nature, for vanity is now come to ſuch a height, that vanity was never ſo vain, nor virtue leſs priſed in any age than in this; for ſome if they had no more in the world, they muſt retain the alamode faſhion, with their old dagld ſilk tail, and a pair of old laced ſhoes, and other tawdry decorements, and thoſe that will not want, if they ſhould lie muſtard a month. So let virtue be ſtill the mark you aim

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at, for as the Proverb ſays, (he that marries before he be wiſe, will die or he thrive,) and better be hand looſe then bound to an ill ſtake.

The deſire of children in a married life is not good either; for they are certain cares, but uncertain pleaſures. And as the proverb ſays, (Rich mens ſons are ſeldom good, and how knoweſt thou, whether a fool or a wiſe man ſhall poſſeſs thy eſtate after thee.) So that,

Marriage is like a revell'd rout,
He that's out, would fain be in:
And he that's in would fain be out.

For ſome women are ſeldom or ever good but when they are in their bed, or dead; as if all the ſtars had combin'd together, to make up a croſs, ſullen and perverſe tormenter of mankind.

In relation to which take this following acroſtick on the word wife.

W Is double wo.
I Nothing but jealouſie.
F Feigned flattering fraud.
E Nothing but enmity.

But laſtly, If your love be fully grounded, or fixed upon any perſon deſtitute of virtue, or other good properties, and labouring under known defects, or otherways, and would be very deſirous to have it removed, either from ſome ſollid grounds and reaſons known to yourſelf, or that you find not ſuitable reſentments retorted.

then conſider this proverbial verſe.

Quot campo flores, tot ſunt in Amore Dolores.

And if thou follow love, it will flee from you but if you leave it, it will follow thee, for hot love is haſty vengence.

And love's but an ague that's reverſt,
Whoſe hot fit takes patient firſt;
And when the heat of fancies over,
He becomes as hard and frail a lover.

For which paſſion of love, or rather fit of meer madneſs and folly. Take this following receipt, approven of by doctor experience, Peter Proof, and Thomas Tryal famous ſurgeons in the town of Patience.

Firſt, Take four ounces of diſcreation, three grains of jocundice, eight ounces of conſideration, ſeven ſcruples of Advertiſement, ſix great gluts of the ſpirit of rue, twelve

twelve drams of indifferency, two pound of patience, a ſmall ſprig of retirment, half a pound of hatred, eight pounds unconſtancy, two great handfuls of imployment, nine pound of abſence, five ounces of man's-ſhoe that never knew ſorrow, the conſtant company of a traveller who returned home honeſt, without a lie in his mouth; and when you have obtained all theſe, boil them in a fine china diſh ſix months without intermiſſion, ſtill ſteering them about with the fore finger of an honeſt man, who never told a lie to his miſtreſs, for fear of the biſhop's foot, and as it boileth, ſcum it with the ſcull of an enuch, and ſpread it on the ſkin of a diſcontented lover, newly dead of the ſame diſeaſe, and apply it blood warm to the heart, never taking it off, till it come off of itſelf: uſe this rightly and apply it exactly, and you'll be as ſound as a ſamond. Probatum eſt.

And further for your diverſion againſt melancholy, take ten long lilts of the tune of ſack-poſſet, ſo oft as you find the fit: and for a continual diet drink, take five great gluts of the decoction of Mother-wit, three times a day.

And to keep your tender body in moderate exerciſe, make a ſober voyage with theſe delicates, who tar their teeth, and pin up their tail in order to go a long journey down five ſteps of a ſtair: and groan up three of another to ſee their ſilter-Eaſe-arſe, and then trip home preciſely to bed againſt night, and ye'll be as tyred as a tyke in a tether.

And if all this do not prevail, I am ſure nothing elſe will do it, ſave, applying to the head Surgeon for your own weight of the powder of cord, which is the only ſole and grand remedy can be given againſt ſuch head ſtrong diſtempers. But I dare engage no further, for the cenſorious will be ready to bid me pull out the beam before I ſpy the mote, and ſet me to the back of the door for telling of the verity; and others will be apt to think their money thrown away, becauſe they find themſelves a little touched, and others will ſay we may know by the ſtrain of his diſcourſe, he hath been diſturbed in his ſtudies.

And I ſay, that is very true, for I had no more time to think upon what I have ſaid, but ſo long as the good wife was writing Rob Gib's contract upon the goodman's cheek-blade with the tong: 10 JU 62 And ſo,

Farewel honeſt foulks, friends are very ſcant;
If you want a ſupper of your own, at mine ye's never rant.

The end of the firſt Part.